

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims supersedes all prior listing of claims.

1. (currently amended) A method for use by middleware in a communication system comprising the steps of:

enabling a group of behavior sets for use by middleware wherein the middleware provides an interface between at least one application running on a first device and at least one network transport element external to the first device, and wherein each behavior set in the group provides for at least one of a different set of routing rules and a different Quality of Service for traffic sent between the at least one application and the at least one network transport element;

operating in accordance with a first behavior set from said group;

receiving at least one trigger that indicates at least one of a condition of mission criticality or a level of mission criticality for a situation that is external to the middleware, external to data routed to and from the middleware, and external to data associated with a user of the middleware;

selecting a second behavior set from said group based upon said at least one trigger; and operating in accordance with said second behavior set.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying a second middleware of the selecting of said second behavior set, wherein the second middleware provides an interface between at least one application running on a second device and at least one network transport element external to the second device.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said at least one trigger is at least one of:

- a light bar activation;
- a light bar deactivation;
- a change in the time of day;
- the speed of a vehicle;
- location information;
- an emergency bar activation;
- an emergency bar deactivation;
- an emergency button activation;
- an emergency button deactivation;
- a siren activation;
- a siren deactivation;
- a dispatch warning;
- a change in dispatch status;
- a change in incident status; and
- a change in situational status; and
- a change in behavior set of a second middleware.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said middleware is a middleware client.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said middleware is a middleware server.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of operating comprises implementing a set of routing rules and Quality of Service determined as a function of said second behavior set.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first behavior set is a default behavior set.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said at least one trigger is at least one of a remote trigger and an external trigger.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of examining state information, and wherein said second behavior set is selected based upon said state information.
10. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second behavior set is selected based upon a determination of a first condition.
11. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein said first condition is the at least one of the condition of mission criticality or the level of mission criticality-a state of mission criticality.
12. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said determination of said first condition is made external to said middleware and communicated to said middleware via said at least one trigger.
13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said determination of said first condition is made by a second middleware that provides an interface between at least one application running on a second device and at least one network transport element external to the second device.
14. (original) The method of Claim 12, wherein said determination of said first condition is made manually.
15. (original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said determination of said first condition is made internal to said middleware based on said at least one trigger.
16. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the behavior sets in said group is predefined.
17. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the behavior sets in said group is dynamically determined.

18. (currently amended) A method for use in middleware in a communication system comprising the steps of:

enabling a group of behavior sets to be predefined for use by a first middleware wherein the first middleware provides an interface between at least one application running on a first device and at least one network transport element external to the first device, and wherein each behavior set in the group provides for at least one of a different set of routing rules and a different Quality of Service for traffic sent between the at least one application and the at least one network transport element;

operating in accordance with a first behavior set from said group;

receiving at least one trigger that indicates at least one of a condition of mission criticality or a level of mission criticality for a situation that is external to the middleware, external to data routed to and from the middleware, and external to data associated with a user of the middleware;

selecting a second behavior set from said group based upon said at least one trigger;

notifying a second middleware of the selecting of said second behavior set wherein the second middleware provides an interface between at least one application running on a second device and at least one network transport element external to the second device; and

operating in accordance with said second behavior set, said operating comprising implementing a set of routing rules and Quality of Service determined as a function of said second behavior set.

19. (currently amended) Middleware for mediating between at least one application and at least one communication network transport, said middleware comprising;
- an application interface to at least one application running on a device;
 - a network interface to at least one network transport element external to the first device;
 - a group of behavior sets, wherein each behavior set in the group provides for at least one of a different set of routing rules and a different Quality of Service for traffic sent between the at least one application and the at least one network transport element; and
 - a behavior set selection function operative for causing said middleware to operate in accordance with a first behavior set from said group; receiving at least one trigger that indicates at least one of a condition of mission criticality or a level of mission criticality for a situation that is external to the middleware, external to data routed to and from the middleware, and external to data associated with a user of the middleware; selecting a second behavior set from said group based upon said at least one trigger; and
 - causing said middleware to operate in accordance with said second behavior set.

20. (original) A system comprising at least one middleware server and at least one middleware client, each operative in accordance with the method of Claim 1.